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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

Memorial to Missing gets underway

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

With ground broken last week for the Memorial to the Missing in Jackson, Mississippi Baptists will soon have the opportunity to make a strong statement on abortion that will echo around the country and the world.

The Memorial to the Missing is meant to call attention to the babies missing from the American population since the legalization of abortion nationwide in the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court. The *Roe* decision, and a companion Supreme Court case styled *Doe v. Bolton*, stripped states of the right to prohibit abortion during the entire nine months of pregnancy.

"This year America will surpass the 50 million mark of aborted children. Just to write or say 50 million is a number beyond comprehension," writes Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in his Directions column for current issue of The Baptist Record.

"Have you ever seen 50 million of anything? In order to demonstrate just on a small scale what 50 million is like, we are erecting a container here at the Baptist Building that will hold 50 million pennies. Every penny placed in this receptacle will represent one child whose life was short-circuited by abortion.

"A penny may not seem like much. Its value may seem small and insignificant, even like the missing child that it represents, but



BREAKING GROUND — Construction on the Memorial to the Missing, designed to bring attention to the tragedy of legalized abortion in Mississippi and around America, began immediately after groundbreaking ceremonies March 29 at the Baptist Building in Jackson. On hand for the groundbreaking were (from left) John R. Laws III, president of Laws Construction Company in Flowood; Daniel C. Hall, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation; Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission; and Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

when 50 million are combined it becomes overwhelming," Futral pointed out.

Construction on the one-of-a-kind container for the 50 million pennies is slated for completion by May 13 — the Saturday before Mother's Day. Laws Construction Company of Flowood is donating the labor for the project.

"Laws Construction Company is excited to be able to help the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board with this unique and important project," said company President John R. Laws III. "It is one we will remember and talk about forever."

On May 13, Mississippi Baptists are invited to participate in a Celebration of Life rally beginning at 10 a.m. at the site of the Memorial to the Missing, on the northwest corner of the city block on which the Baptist Building rests at 515 Mississippi Street in Jackson.

Every Mississippi Baptist church has been mailed a heavy-duty, woven sack specially designed to hold about 15,000 loose pennies to be contributed to the memorial, Futral said, and more sacks will be available upon request.

A lack of the special sacks shouldn't deter anyone from getting involved, however. "It is not necessary for you to

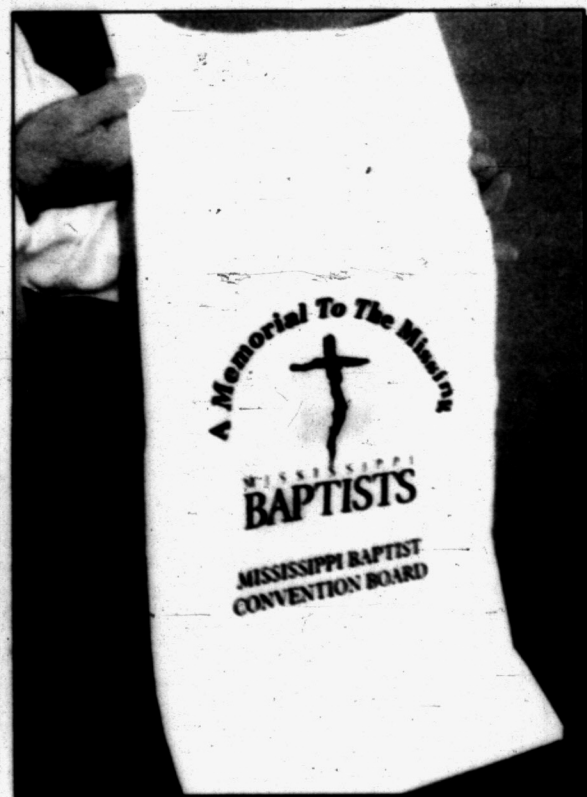
use only these bags," said Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC), which is spearheading the project. "Any strong container can be used to collect and transport the pennies."

Persons desiring more sacks and other information on the project can contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3329 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 329. E-mail: rwood@mbcb.org.

Pennies can be delivered to CAC at the Baptist Building beginning immediately, but churches are asked to turn out for the May 13 rally with penny-filled sacks to place in the container and send a message from Mississippi Baptists to the world about the tragedy of legalized abortion.

"One significant final feature of this memorial is that it will last far beyond the months that it will be standing. At the conclusion of the memorial's life when it is removed, the pennies collected will be placed in an endowment with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The proceeds will be used in the years to come to help provide funding for support and care of pro-life issues. These pennies will not be wasted," Futral wrote.

FOR THE MISSING — Mississippi Baptist churches will soon begin receiving heavy-duty, woven sacks in which to place up to 15,000 loose pennies for inclusion in the Memorial to the Missing, to bring attention to the 50 million legal abortions that have occurred in the U.S. since 1973. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)





EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

EDITOR

William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
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Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

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address changes to: The Editor,
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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What's really important?

A total of 43,168 screaming basketball fans packed the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis on Monday evening of this week to watch the University of Florida become NCAA basketball champions by virtue of their lopsided victory over the University of California at Los Angeles.

Tickets were priced at \$154 per person plus fees and parking for the semi-finals/final ticket package (a \$124 "distant view" ticket package was also available). Fans had to complete a ten-page form on the NCAA web site just to be eligible for the randomized computer drawing for the tickets. Scalpers who were lucky enough to get their hands on some of the tickets after the drawing undoubtedly sold the tickets for much more than face value. That's why they're called scalpers, after all.

The extravaganza was held in the cavernous 7.25-acre, \$77.5 million facility that is large enough to serve as the home field for the Indianapolis Colts of the National Football League — and that takes a lot of square footage. By the way, that's \$77.5 million in 1984 dollars. The price for a comparable facility today would probably run about \$250 million.

A fortunate few fans were even able to watch the games from 104 luxury suites and five "Super Suites," all with lavish accommodations and only the finest food, liquor, and service. Ah, the advantages of being a wealthy sports fan in America.

All the information above is provided to bring us to some important questions about our focus on what's really important, to wit: When was the last time 43,000

"NOW THAT'S ENTHUSIASM."



screaming "fans" of Jesus Christ poured into a facility like the Hoosier Dome and shouted themselves hoarse in excitement over the victory we have in Christ?

There have been specific events in the past that have drawn crowds like that, such as youth rallies, Promise Keepers, and Billy Graham crusades. One-time events like that do add many believers to the Kingdom — but do we consistently, openly, week-by-week and day-by-day, exhibit our faith in important ways that unmistakably show to

a lost world that we are as excited about our Christian witness as we are about our big sports extravaganzas (Mark 16:19-20)?

We are willing to sacrifice \$154 for a chance to attend 120 fleeting minutes of basketball, but are we willing to sacrifice much more — including our lives, if necessary — to tell people about the eternity found in our Savior (Matt. 28:18-29)?

We are willing to travel all the way across the country at great expense for a few ball games, but are we willing to do the same to get to a mission field white unto harvest (Matt. 9:35-37)?

Think quickly — who won the NCAA basketball tournament last year? Who won the tournament five years ago? Ten years ago? Fifty years ago? Except for a few statistics buffs, most of us probably don't have a clue.

Yet, the message of Christ has not changed one tiny bit in the same period of time. It is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The things of this earth, like sports titles, are not nearly as important (Matt. 6:19-21) as reaching one more person with the Gospel message and saving his eternal life.

Sports are fine, and serve many useful purposes in our culture. Like so many of our other endeavors, however, we have too often allowed such transient preoccupations to divert us from our main mission as Christians to bring a lost world to Jesus. Isn't that more important than all the championships of this world rolled into one?

Priorities are priorities. With billions of people on this planet still waiting for someone to tell them about Jesus, let's be sure we keep ours straight.

GUEST OPINION:



Is church headed for decline, death?

By Tom Rainer, president
LifeWay Christian Resources,
Nashville

I am by nature an optimist. I have seen the hand of God too often in my life to live in a state of despair and defeatism, but the state of evangelism in the American church is such that I do have my moments when I wonder if the church is headed down the path of many European congregations: decline and death.

The facts of a 2004 research project I led are sobering. It takes 86 church members in America one year to reach a person for Christ. Now, I realize that such statistical studies are imperfect, and I make no claims of omniscience, especially in matters such as the regenerate population — but if the research is even close to accurate, the reality is that the church is not reproducing herself.

In just one or two generations, Christianity could be so marginalized that it will be deemed irrelevant by most observers.

Why has the American church become evangelistically anemic? The research points to several possible factors.

First, the church and many of the Christians who serve in the churches have become doctrinally ineffective. Repentance is often avoided as a key truth of the Gospel. Hell is rarely

mentioned, despite its abundance of references in Scripture. Regenerate church membership and church discipline are sometimes perceived as relics of an old and irrelevant era. When these and other key issues are avoided or even watered down, the church loses her power, and the Gospel is no longer the Gospel.

Second, church leaders are becoming less evangelistic. A survey of pastors I led in 2005 surprised the research team. Over one-half (53%) of pastors have made no evangelistic efforts at all in the past six months. They have not

attempted to engage a lost and unchurched person at any level. They have become busy doing many things, but they have chosen through their lack of actions to be disobedient to Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19, and many other clear passages of evangelistic mandates.

Third, Christians in churches often get caught up in the minor issues and fail to become passionate about the major issue of evangelism. I served as pastor of a church that spent two hours in a business meeting debating over a five percent differential in the cost of two similar pieces of furniture.

I wish I had seen such pas-

sion for the lost and the unchurched in our community.

The numerical evidence seems clear. The American church is dying. We are not reproducing Christians. American church growth is typically the transfer of members from one congregation to another, rather than the conversion of the lost. I guess I could blame the churches, her leaders, and stubborn church members, but I must confess that I too often fall short in my own evangelistic zeal. Sometimes I get so busy that I fail to do the main thing.

Perhaps the first step for all of us is the confession of our own sins of disobedience, our own failures to take the evangelistic mandate seriously. Perhaps if we determine that the problem begins with "me," then we can be a part of the solution.

Will you join me in a personal evangelistic renewal? The results of our evangelistic efforts are in the hands of a sovereign God but we can be His instruments for this renewal. Perhaps then the American church will see new life and new hope.

Such is my prayer. I hope it is yours.

Rainer's commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

Henry, former Miss. pastor, retires in Fla.

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP and local reports) — "If I had a thousand lives, I'd be a pastor," Jim Henry said in a wide-ranging, hour-and-a-half interview with the Florida Baptist Witness reflecting on nearly a half-century of pastoral ministry, which includes his first full-time pastorate in the Mississippi Delta and more than 28 years as pastor of First Church in Orlando.

"As I look at nearly a half-century that went really, awfully fast, I feel like David ... when he sat down and considered God's blessing, he said, 'Who am I and who is my father's house that you've set me in this place,' and that's the way I feel about God's grace and goodness to me. I'm awed and eternally grateful."

Henry and his wife Jeanette arrived in the Mississippi Delta shortly after his graduation from New Orleans Seminary to pastor Hollywood Church outside Sledge in Quitman County. They stayed about two years before answering God's next call for their life of ministry together.

The Witness interview came amid a weeklong celebration of Henry's tenure at First Church, including his final sermon as pastor March 19; various recognition dinners with constituencies of the megachurch; and a special two-and-a-half-hour celebration service March 26. Henry concludes his pastorate March 31.

During the March 26 celebration service, Henry was named pastor emeritus of the 13,000-member church he has led since 1977. Other recognitions during the service:

- an announcement that an auditorium at LifeWay Christian Resources' Ridgcrest Conference Center in North Carolina will be named The Dr. James B. "Jim" Henry Auditorium, presented by James T. Draper Jr., retired president of LifeWay Christian Resources, and personnel committee member John Bozard.

- an endowment in Jeanette Henry's name to assist pastors' wives to attend the annual meeting of Florida Baptist State Convention, made on behalf of the church and the Florida Baptist Convention and presented by church member Lois Wenger and John Sullivan, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention.

- a gift from the deacons of the chalice Henry used to serve the Lord's Supper for more than 20 years at First Church, Orlando.

During the March 26 service symbolizing the transition in leadership, David Uth, the new senior pastor who was called as co-pastor last May, washed the feet of Henry, and



HUMBLE SPIRIT — David Uth (kneeling), new senior pastor of First Church in Orlando, washes the feet of retiring pastor Jim Henry during a special celebration at the Florida church. (BP photo courtesy of First Church, Orlando)

Henry "passed the mantle" to Uth with a shawl and in a dedicatory prayer over Uth.

Under Henry's leadership, First Church, Orlando outgrew its the downtown campus and moved to the present John Young Parkway campus, premiered Singing Christmas Trees, opened a community crisis pregnancy center, and started The First Academy, a K-12 Christian school.

In his final sermon to the congregation March 19, Henry walked on the platform carrying a briefcase telling the church, "Well, I'm on my way out." The briefcase held eight Bibles, from the first one given to him after his baptism by his first pastor, W.F. Powell at First Church in Nashville, down through all the Bibles he has used during 45 years of pastoral ministry.

Henry's final sermon as pastor, The Worthiness of Jesus, from Revelation 18:11-16 and Psalm 24:7-10, is among his favorites, delivered more than 50 times during his ministry, he said.

"For 45 years I've been inviting people to follow Jesus, to trust Jesus as Savior and Lord," Henry said.

Concluding his sermon using every letter of the English alphabet to highlight a different attribute of Jesus, Henry told the congregation, "All we need from A to Z, He's worthy. ... Consider Jesus as your Savior and

Record

Lord of your life. Consider Jesus, the coming King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

Following Henry's final sermon, Uth told the congregation, "Can I tell you guys a secret? This wasn't the last time Jim Henry's going to preach right here."

During a March 21 retirement dinner with 600 members who have served in leadership positions during Henry's tenure, Henry was presented a "first-class" golf vacation in Scotland, including one round of golf at the historic Saint Andrew's Golf Course, and Jeanette Henry was given a set of travel luggage.

In his retirement — or "redeployment" as he prefers to call it — Henry will focus on mentoring young pastors and assisting churches, he said in the Witness interview.

"[When] people are at their deepest point of opportunities and needs, nobody can be there more than a pastor can," Henry said, adding in a final encouragement to pastors, "If God's got that call on your life, love Him, love His Word, love His people."

Afghan arrives in Italy

ROME (BP) — The Afghan man who was facing death for converting from Islam to Christianity is in Italy, where he is expected to take asylum. Abdul Rahman, age 41, arrived in Italy March 29 after Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's cabinet voted to welcome Rahman into the country. "We are very glad to be able to welcome someone who has been so courageous," CNN.com reported Berlusconi as saying through a spokesman. In a case that has drawn worldwide attention, Rahman was arrested in Afghanistan and faced the death penalty for converting to Christianity. But he was released from prison March 27 after the prosecutor sent a letter to the judge saying Rahman was "mentally unfit to stand trial," the Associated Press reported. Afghan Deputy Attorney General Mohammed Eshak Alok as saying, "Christians around the world have expressed thanks for Rahman's release but concern for the grounds on which it was granted. The case has highlighted vast differences between western democratic countries and Islamic nations. While worldwide leaders, including President Bush, called for Rahman's release, many Afghan clerics called for his death. The Afghan Constitution is based on Sharia law, and many Muslims there believe such law requires death for Muslims who reject Islam. Some clerics had called for fellow Muslims to kill Rahman."

Looking back

10 years ago

U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia addresses members of the Mississippi College School of Law Christian Legal Society during a prayer breakfast on April 9 at First Church, Jackson.

20 years ago

As a part of the board of trustees meeting of the Baptist Children's Village, Karl K. McGraw is recognized for 25 years of service to children.

60 years ago

Over 500 men fill the large auditorium of First Church, Jackson, for the state's first Brotherhood meeting. Representatives come from as far as Blue Mountain, 200 miles away.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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No. 14



**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eter-
nal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and
rose from the grave to forgive
my sins and to restore my
relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a
loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to
become children of God, even to
those who believe in his name."
(John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiri-
tual guidance.*

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A MEMORIAL TO THE MISSING

Each year thousands of children are reported missing. Many of them are never found. It is a tragedy that involves unending heartbreak. At the same time, millions of children are missing because they were never allowed to be born due to the decision of our U.S. Supreme Court in 1973 in *Roe vs. Wade*. Since that landmark decision, over 49 million babies were denied the right to life. This year America will surpass the 50 million mark of aborted children. Just to write or say 50 million is a number beyond comprehension. Have you ever seen 50 million of anything? In order to demonstrate just on a small scale what 50 million is like, we are erecting a container here at the Baptist Building that will hold 50 million pennies. Every penny placed in this receptacle will represent one child whose life was short-circuited by abortion.

A penny may not seem like much. Its value may seem small and insignificant, even like the missing child that it represents, but when 50 million are combined it becomes overwhelming.

Your help is needed to fill this container with the 50 million pennies. One penny will be significant. Ten thousand — a hundred dollars worth of pennies, — certainly makes a difference and some have already done more than that as they have asked groups within the church to just bring some of the pennies from home that have been accumulated over the years.



Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Every penny will represent one person who is missing from our society because of abortion. Each one is missed and each one is significant. With your help we will gather the 50 million pennies, place them in the container, and they will stand as an incredible, visible tribute to the missing.

Recently my oldest grandson and his dad visited Washington, D.C. Among the many things they saw was the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery. Anyone who has ever visited our nation's capitol and missed seeing this tomb and the respectful military guard that is there 24 hours a day and the changing of the guard has missed one of the most moving and solemn experiences imaginable. Yet here in our land 50 million children are missing, quietly taken in the surgical surroundings of medical technology. While millions surely quietly grieve over their loss, as time passes there is no monument, no dignified military guard, and little ritual or fanfare. They are just gone! You and I have the privilege of con-

Directions

tributing to a memorial that will speak of our loss 24 hours a day and help convict our national conscience.

Think about each of these 50 million pennies. Each one represents a story of struggle, pain, and often betrayal. One may represent a young lady who was used, left alone, and afraid with nowhere to turn. One may represent some lady who simply did not want to be bothered with another child. Each of the 50 million stories can conclude with a Savior who cares, who can save, and can help.

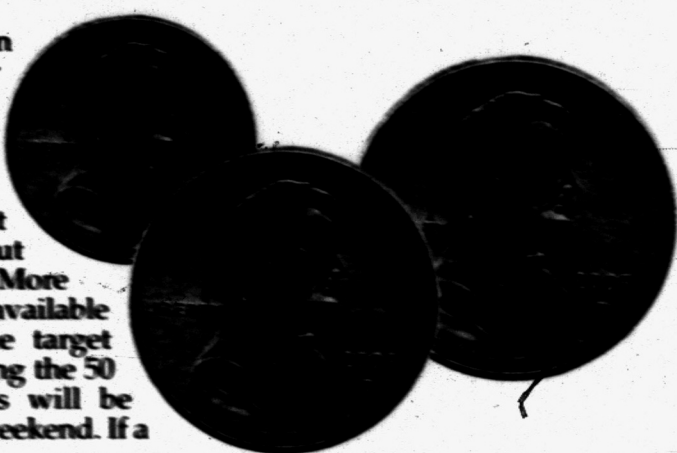
You can begin sending or bringing loose pennies now. Every church will be provided a sack that will hold about 15,000 pennies. More sacks will be available on request. The target date for collecting the 50 million pennies will be Mother's Day weekend. If a

group from your church would like to come and bring the pennies, we will gather on Saturday, May 13, at 10:00 a.m. for a brief service.

One significant final feature of this memorial is that it will last far beyond the months that it will be standing. At the conclusion of the memorial's life when it is removed the pennies collected will be placed in an endowment with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The proceeds will be used in the years to come to help provide funding for support and care of pro-life issues. These pennies will not be wasted.

Someone is needed to make a difference in your church in collecting and getting the pennies to us. Even now, why don't you ask the Lord to allow you to be that ONE?

*The author may be contacted at
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-
0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.*



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THE GEORGE/GREEN AREA MISSIONS PROGRAM is now receiving resumes for the position of associational missions director. Please send to George/Greene area missions, P.O. Box 93, Lucedale, MS 39452. Resumes will be received through June 1, 2006.

SEEKING A BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Submit resumes with references to Lena Baptist Church, PO Box 161, Lena, MS 39094, attn: Rev. Jamie Moore.

BRIAR HILL BAPTIST CHURCH is looking for a part time youth minister. Please send resumes to Briar Hill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 129, Florence, MS 39073, attention Steve Tuttle.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OLOH, located on Hwy 98, approximately 13 miles west of Hattiesburg, MS, is looking for a Minister of Youth/ Education. If you are interested in the position please send your resume to: First Baptist Church

Oloh, attn: Personnel Committee, 36 Oloh Church Road, Sumrall MS 39482. Phone: (601) 264-8868, Fax: (601) 264-8813, fbcoloh@megagate.com.

TWIN LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH IN MADISON seeking a part-time minister of Students. Send resumes to Hugh Smith, 673 Lake Cavalier Rd., Madison, MS 39110 or call (601) 856-2305.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FLORA is accepting resumes for a full-time position of associate pastor in charge of music and preschool, children, adult and mature adult activities. The primary responsibility is in the area of music ministry. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, PO Box 163, Flora, MS 39071. A video or DVD of the candidate would be helpful.

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER needed for a small youth group at a church in McComb, Miss. Housing provided, call (601) 648-5214 or (601) 249-3823 and leave message.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 6, 2006

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

GA Camp Dates

GRADES 3-6 (COMPLETED 3RD GRADE)

JUNE: 5-9, 12-16, 19-23 (full), 26-30

JULY: 10-14 (full), 17-21, 24-28

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PLEASE PRAY that our staff will be an example to our campers this summer as they follow in the footsteps of Christ.

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LAD/CRUSADER DAY 2006

APRIL 8, 2006

9 A.M.-3 P.M.

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April 28-29, 2006

Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison

Hear from missionary, **Bonita Wilson**, Pac Rim; our new state president, **Donna Swarts**; LifeWay's **Leighann McCoy**; national wMu's **Caroline Jones** and **Kym Mitchell** along with the inspiring message of **Dennis Ray Smith**, FBC, Pascagoula, and many more.



Donna Swarts

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

- 2:30 p.m. **General Session**
3:00 - 5:15 **Conference Tracks* or browse displays**
Associational Missions Leadership Training Track
Live the Call Track
5:30 - 6:30 **Associational wMu Leadership Teams**
MISSIONS BANQUET
Reservations required, cost \$8. (No cost for missionary parents, missionaries, associational missions directors and program guests)
6:30 **Worship Celebration I**
Broadmoor adult choir and instrumentalists
8:15 - 9:30 **Conference Tracks* or browse displays**

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

- 8:30 - 10:45 a.m. **Conference Tracks* or browse displays**
10:45 **Worship Celebration II**
Good H2O in concert



LOCAL MOTELS

Drury Inn & Suites, 601-956-6100
Hampton Inn, 601-956-3611
Mention you are with the MBCB Woman's Missionary Union when making reservations.

For more info, contact the Miss. wMu at 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3324 or kburns@mbcb.org.

2006 PREACHING CONFERENCE

PASTOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**First Baptist Church
Vicksburg
Monday, April 24**

**First Baptist Church
Starkville
Tuesday, April 25**

For more info: Call the Pastor/Leadership
Development Department at 601-292-3305
or 1-800-748-1651

Featured Presenter
Wayne VanHorn

Theme

A Preaching Approach to
the Deuteronomic History:
Deuteronomy, Joshua,
Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel,
I & II Kings



PERMIT ADT

JOHN HEMMILL BAND

SuperSummer

State Senior Adult Retreats

Making A Difference - Acts 1:8

RETREAT I

May 15-17, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (601-924-5062)

Preacher - Bill Baker, former pastor, FBC, Clinton
Choir - Lincoln Chorale, Brookhaven (Monday)
Alta Woods BC, Jackson (Tuesday)

Deadline for registration is Monday, May 8

Breakouts - Sta-fit - Randy Oswalt, Vicksburg

- Don't Retire, Just Rewire! - Charles Welch
- Senior Challenge Acts 1:8 - Paul Harrell, Jackson
- Reality of Experiencing God - Julius Thompson, Clinton
- Jar of Joyful Laughter - Gene Rester, Jackson

Morning Watch - Gordon Sansing, Forest

Afternoon class *HIStory of Hymn* - Irene Martin, Harpersville

COST
determined
by lodging
preference

RETREAT II

May 22-24, FBC, Natchez (601-442-1464)

Preacher - Jack Glaze, former NOBTS/MC professor
Choirs - Lincoln Chorale, Brookhaven (Monday)
Sweet Spirit Singers, Liberty (Tuesday)

Deadline for registration is Monday, May 15

Breakouts - Sta-fit - Randy Oswalt, Vicksburg

- Don't Retire, Just Rewire! - Jeff Doremus, Brookhaven
- Senior Challenge Acts 1:8 - Don Stuart, Hattiesburg
- Reality of Experiencing God - John McCall, Clinton
- Jar of Joyful Laughter - Mickey Bounds, Farmersville, La.

Morning Watch - Talmadge Smith, Brookhaven

Afternoon class *HIStory of Hymn* - Irene Martin, Harpersville

COST
• \$30 (includes
two suppers)
• Commuters
Fee - \$10 for
retreat
(no meals)

INFO: Contact
the
Discipleship
& Family
Ministry
Office,
601-292-3284
or
1-800-748-1651

Growing Churches

2006

with Garywa

Services:

Family Ministry
Discipleship
Youth Ministry
Sunday School
Small Churches
Women's Ministry
Preschool/Children's
Ministry
Bible Drills
Bible Buddies
Speaker's Tournament
Deacon Training



Speaker
Argile Smith
Vice President for
Advancement
William Carey College

FOR PROGRAM
INFORMATION
Contact the Discipleship &
Family Ministry Office
601-292-3284 or
1-800-748-1651

Registration: 2 p.m., Thursday
Adjourn: after lunch, Saturday

Reservations can be made by phone with
MasterCard at 601-292-3304.

Discipleship & Family Ministry will be provided for

Get It Together

Pastor and Sunday School Director Conference

Monday, May 1

Bethlehem BC, Laurel

Tuesday, May 2

Calvary BC, Greenwood

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Conference: 7-8:30 p.m.

A complimentary dinner will be provided for all pre-registered participants. To preregister, contact the Sunday School Department, 601-292-3291 or 1-800-748-1651

This will be a great time of fellowship together as the pastor and Sunday School director of your church meet together to recapture the vision for your Sunday School.

Participants will experience:

- The purpose of Sunday School – a 1st Century concept in a 21st Century world
- The job description of the pastor, as it pertains to Sunday School
- The job description of the Sunday School director
- How to avoid being the Lone Ranger
- How to plan and dream together

ADOPT-A-SUMMER MISSIONARY

MISSISSIPPI BSU

Pastors & WMU Leaders

Did you know that ...

... 2006 is the 59th year of Mississippi Baptist Student Union sending out Summer Missionaries?

... during those years 3,035 students have served, and Mississippi BSUs have raised over two million dollars to send them?

... these students are servant leaders, giving up summer jobs and income to become missionaries?

And did you know that ...

... you and your church can be personally involved and supportive of one of these students as they serve this summer?

... by adopting a student for the summer, your church or WMU can experience first-hand support for those who are sacrificing to serve?

You can help by assisting students in many ways:

Spiritual – Praying for and remembering these students.
Physical – Helping students with small needs such as toiletries, gift cards, stamps, etc. Some churches have involved their VBS during the summer, their children, and their workers, in various support activities of Summer Missionaries.

DEADLINE: MAY 15!

YES! We are interested in adopting a Mississippi BSU Summer Missionary appointed through our State Baptist Student Union for the summer of 2006. Please register our request to be assigned a student and send further information.

Contact Person: _____ Phone #: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip Code: _____
Church Name: _____ Phone #: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip Code: _____
Three Mississippi universities/colleges near us:
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
Send to: Collegiate Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board,
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

2006 REGIONAL SENIOR ADULT RALLIES

8:30-11:30 a.m.

COST: \$2 (at the door)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Frank Pollard, former pastor of FBC, Jackson

SOUTH RALLY

August 29

**Salem Heights BC
Laurel (601-763-7570)**

NORTH RALLY

August 31

FBC, Batesville (662-563-7655)

AREA SENIOR ADULT RALLY

April 4

Faith BC, Meridian

Contact Person: Buddy (601-681-6615)

For info: Discipleship and Family Ministry, 1-800-748-1651
or 601-292-2373 or gshows@mbcb.org

THROUGH MEDIA

WORKSHOPS

- "Nuts and Bolts" of Camera Operation – Led by Don Moore and David Bunger
- Getting Started on the Web – Led by J.C. Howell
- How Did They Do That? (1 hour session for everyone)
- Creative Production – Led by Don Moore and David Bunger
- Sound Advice Basic – Led by Trooper Hales
- Sound Advice Advanced – Led by Trooper Hales
- Advanced Web Site Design – Led by J.C. Howell
- Non-Linear Editing for Weekly Church Broadcast – Led by Lynn Bullock
- Projection Systems Forum – Led by Joe Dillon

Reservation Deadline is April 19, 2006

For more info, contact Communication Services at
601-292-3387 or 1-800-748-1651

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

April 7-20, 2006

Enjoying the Father "If I understand anything about the trinitarian reality of God. I realize that is exactly what I'm invited to do: to enjoy the presence of the Father, made accessible in the Son, and made known to me through the Holy Spirit."

Paula Rinehart

For: (1) Cooperative Program Day (MS Emphasis); (2) The Acts Alive Team writes: "An Arkansas volunteer team held an evangelistic service in Durango, Mexico, in the village of Cerro Corda. Sixty out of 100 who saw the Jesus film accepted the Lord as their Savior. A brother from the village is leading worship services in a home." Pray for these new believers.

Jackie Allen, Peoria, Ariz., is a church planter working with seven families to launch North Pointe Church at Vistancia. Pray for meeting space for worship services to start this quarter, and for 50 to 60 new families moving in every month to be drawn to Christ.

Please pray for Lighthouse Beach Reach Ministries by professionals and students of Valencia, Venezuela, during the Holy Week celebrations. Venezuelan university students commit their vacation time to go to the beaches and share their faith. Pray for these young people to be safe and to speak truth in love to those who need to hear.

N is a Jewish businesswoman from the Urals (area of Russia where "Dr. Zhivago" was filmed). A worker met her at a Hebrew class. N is a pleasant, intelligent, confident woman but lacking a relationship with her Messiah. Please pray that God would open up opportunities for R to be able to share her faith with her.

Stewart Pickle, Anchorage, Alaska, is the church starter strategist with Hatcher Pass Association. Pray for the congregations that are partnering to begin church plants in the Settler's Bay and Whik areas of Wasilla, and the Fishhook area in Palmer.

Pray for new house churches being started in Nairobi, Kenya; for doorways to open for other new church starts; that existing house churches will multiply to start second- and third-generation churches; and for the new believers and members of these churches to share their testimonies with others and lead them to Christ.

Pray for the Baptist Theological Seminary of Zambia as it trains men and women to serve in local churches in Zambia and other countries. Ask that the local Baptist churches in Zambia will begin supporting the seminary financially, and that more students will answer the call of God to ministry and to prepare for effective service.

For: (1) Campers on Missions, 19th-22nd (MM); (2) An American grandmother serving in China writes often of new babies being born in her living room. She is speaking of the spiritual birth of those who emerge from darkness into light as they call on Jesus. Praise God for all who are consistently sharing Christ with Chinese visitors to their homes.

Pray for the Kul people of the Pacific Rim, numbering more than 3 million with less than 1 percent having come to faith in our Lord. Continue to pray for massive seed sowing among them in order to find "people of peace" (Luke 10:6). With people of peace embedded among the Kul people, many may come to faith.

Mary Gore, Zwolle, La., is a MSC missionary serving in the resort ministry in Toledo Bend, La. Mary takes church to the people - passing out water bottles or leading Bible clubs. Pray for Mary and volunteers to impact the lives of tourists and residents by sharing the gospel.

For: (1) Bible Drills, Salem Heights BC, Laurel, 2:30-4:30 p.m. (D&FM); (2) Crystal Clifton, Gig Harbor, Wash., is the director of U.S. church relations with Pastore International. Pray for them as they work to free minors held against their will for prostitution in brothels in India.

For: (1) Lad/Crusader Day, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (MM); (2) State Speakers Tournament, FBC, Clinton, 10 a.m.-noon (D&FM); (3) State Selection Tournament, FBC, Clinton, noon-3 p.m. (D&FM).

An elderly widow and her family have received an invitation to visit her daughter in a neighboring Last Frontier country. On her last visit the niece accepted the Lord. Ask the Father for special times of sharing with other members of the family so that they also may come to believe.

Many Muslims use a string of 33 prayer beads. They finger through them three times successively as they meditate on and praise the 99 beautiful names of Allah. Al Malik (the King) is one of the 99 names. Christians also believe God is King and that Jesus Christ came to establish God's kingdom among men. Pray that Muslims will invite Jesus Christ to be King of their life.



Single Adult Retreat

The Power Behind
N E S S

May 19-21
Central Hills

RESERVATIONS may be made by phone with a Visa/MasterCard, 601-292-3304.
FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION:
Contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Office
601-292-3284 or 1-800-748-1651.

BREAKOUTS

"Power Behind the Jar of Laughter"

Mickey Bounds
Farmersville, La.

"Power Behind the Temple" (Health)

Randy Oswalt
Founder of Sta-Fit
Vicksburg

"Power Behind Your Moral Compass"

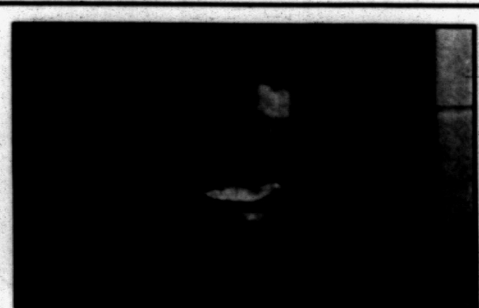
James Haynes
Minister of Singles
Biloxi

"Power Behind the Spirit"

Gwen Williams
Miss Chocolate
Baton Rouge

"Power Behind Acts 1:8" (Missions)

Eileen Wright
Alabama Singles
Consultant



Concert
Matt Blagg & Band, Texas

Encourage a MK with a card today!

6-2-89
MISS REBEKAH CLARK
Parents: Richard & Wanda
Church Planting:
Central & Eastern Europe

6-3-86
MR. JOEL MARTIN
Parents: William & Cynthia
General Evangelism:
South America

6-3-86
MISS LAUREN E. MCCALL
Parents: Dennis & Margaret
Agriculture: CESA

6-3-04
MISS MARGARET R. WINGO
Parents: Floyd & Sylvia
General Evangelism: South America

6-6-86
MISS CHARISSA B. HEARON
Parents: Thomas & Bonnie
Student Evangelism:
Western Europe

6-12-96
MISS AUDREY L. YOUNG
Parents: Steven & Laura
Student Evangelism: Middle America & the Caribbean

6-15-05
MR. ETHAN EPPS
Parents: Aaron & Tiffany
General Evangelism:
Eastern South America

6-22-94
MISS MARY K. YOUNG
Parents: Steven & Laura
Student Evangelism: Middle America & the Caribbean

6-28-89
MISS CHARISSA L. FORTENBERRY
Parents: Robert & Margaret
General Evangelism: CESA

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS



BMC SGA Council



BMC Students Take Mission Trips to Gulf Coast and Pennsylvania

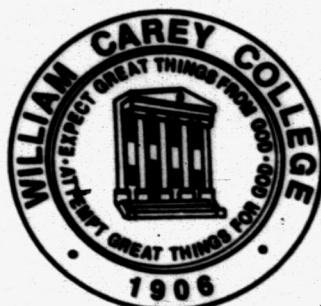


The 2006-2007 school year at Blue Mountain College will be a year of historical changes as the College transitions to co-educational status. The new Student Government Association Council will provide leadership to the student body as changes are implemented. Officers for 2006-2007 include: (front row, left to right) Lydia Turner, president; Ashley Hollingsworth, vice-president; Leigh Ann Alexander, secretary/treasurer; (second row, left

to right) Lesley Smith, junior representative; Bill Blackmon, transition representative; Sam Henderson, transition representative; Alyssa Merryman, senior representative; (third row, left to right) Trista Spight, commuter representative; Becky Stenger, dormitory representative; Jesse Huggins, dormitory representative; Lana Harris, sophomore representative; Christina Teel, freshman representative.

Blue Mountain College's Baptist Student Union sponsored two mission trips during the College's recent spring break. One team visited the Mississippi Gulf Coast and worked with the Union Baptist Church from Picayune on projects in the Bay St. Louis area. Members of this team were (front row, left to right) Taryn Wenzel and Ashley Waldrep; (back row, left to right)

Rebecca Burgett, Maria Teel (leader), Stephanie Bilbo, Kim Lancaster, and Rachel Edwards. The second team flew north to Pennsylvania and worked with local missions in surveying neighborhoods. Team members included (front row, left to right) Jocelyn Panter, Korrie Stanton, Nikki Crow, Tracy Moser (leader), Robert Ekis; (second row, left to right) Amy Ledbetter, Jeff Smith, Dallas Pitts, John Mark Jarrett, Jessica Worsham and Jennifer Worsham.



Daniel Schabot, director of forensics and assistant professor of communication at William Carey College, received the Travis G. Jones Coaches Award for 2006 at the National Christian College Forensics Association (NCCFA) tournament held recently at John Brown University in Arkansas.



Schabot



Mississippi College

A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Approximately 562 students will receive degrees at William Carey College's four commencement exercises to be held on May 19 at 7 p.m. and May 20 at 9:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. in the Dumas Smith Auditorium in the Thomas Fine Arts Building on the Hattiesburg campus. For more information about graduation, call (601) 318-6195.

Mississippi College students celebrate Spring Fever Week sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA). Each year, the SGA Campus Activities Board plans a week full of special activities for students.

Shown are MC students enjoying spring weather on the Quad.

The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has ranked Mississippi College fourth among the nation's leaders for the number student missionaries mobilized during 2005. Under the auspices and direction of NAMB, 1,700 students were mobilized from 119 colleges and universities representing all 50 states, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Significantly, three of the top five national leaders were Mississippi schools.



Spring Fever Week, MC

Baptist WOMEN'S SERVICES



Planning Healthy Age-Related Strategies for Every Stage of a Woman's Life

Saturday, April 22, 2006

10:00 am - 3:00 pm at Northpark Mall

Featuring Trading Spaces, Laurie Smith Physicians will present topics from pregnancy, pre-teen issues and menopause.

For more information and to register for this FREE event call

601-948-6262 or 1-800-948-6262

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Bibliocipher

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EVXOXYIOX UXZCR PDFEZ-
YZXW UM YTZEY, KX VTJX
GXTSX KZEV RIW EVOIDRV
IDO ALOW PXFDF SVOZFE.

OIBTCF YZJX: ICX

Clue: Y = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six: Thirty.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

www.mbc.org

1. First Church, Magee, held a fundraiser at a local restaurant. Shown are several participants who helped serve food and entertained later with praise songs.
2. First Church, Chicora, welcomes Tim Moore as deacon. Shown are pastor David Roberson, Moore, and Alvin Cook.
3. Troop 17:22, a clown ministry from Starkville, performed Jan. 29 at Macedonia Church, Lee County for children's night.



1. Fundraiser, First Church, Magee



2. Deacon Ordination, First Church, Chicora



3. Troop 17:22, Macedonia Church, Lee County

"The borrower is slave to the lender."

Proverbs 22:7

God has a plan for your money!

Dave Ramsey's
**Financial
Peace
University**

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- 30-60% of attendees are unchurched
- Biblically-based curriculum
- Taught by Dave Ramsey via video
- Great for small groups
- Equips families & individuals to:
 - Eliminate debt, save for future
 - Give like never before

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or visit DaveRamsey.com/fpu/church

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

You Have a Motive

Luke 23: 32-47

By Huey Dedmon

Spring is in the air, and I find it very easy to be motivated to spend as much time as possible outside. I like the fresh air, cutting grass, and just sitting in the swing praying and thinking on the things of God. I also like to take naps in the sunshine once in a while. Motivation is the key to anything we do. As Christians, we should be motivated to be a witness to others for Christ. Many people do not understand that Jesus died on the cross for their sins. They do not know that because of their sinful state they need God's forgiveness. Many have heard the Gospel, but do not know how to respond. These and many other reasons should motivate us to

tell the story of Jesus to everyone we meet.

Our lesson this week comes from Luke 23:31-47, and focuses on the events surrounding the death of Jesus. When we look at the people that crucified and mocked Jesus, we see people who do not understand that He was dying on the cross for them. In verses 32-34, Jesus is being crucified between two common criminals. The soldiers are casting lots for the clothes of Jesus, yet he still prays to his Father on their behalf, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing." (v.34, HCSB) The religious leaders mocked him saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if this is God's Messiah, the chosen one." (v. 35,



Dedmon

make it our priority to proclaim God's message of salvation. We have experienced the forgiveness of God firsthand. How can we keep this precious gift of grace to ourselves? It is a gift that must be shared!

Not only have we been forgiven of our past sin, we have been given assurance of our future. In verses 39-43 one of the criminals began to yell insults at Jesus. He said, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us." (HCSB) The other criminal rebuked the one insulting Jesus and asked him a question we all need to consider, "Don't you even fear God?" (v.

40a, HCSB) A healthy "fear of God" should motivate us to tell others about Him. This is not a fear that causes us to be scared of God but a fear that enables us to be reverent, respectful, and obedient to Him. One criminal had that healthy fear and asked Jesus to remember him when he came into his kingdom. Jesus' reaction to being insulted, scoffed at, and mocked was to save someone. Jesus assured the repentant criminal that, "Today you will be with me in paradise (heaven)." (v. 43, HCSB) Our motivation to witness is based in the fact that Jesus will provide saving grace to anyone who will ask.

We have seen in this one event that we have forgiveness of sin and assurance of our future. Now we will see the reason Jesus went to the cross. As the sin of the world, past, present, and future was placed on Jesus, God the Father had to turn His face away. Matthew 27:46 says, "Jesus cried with a loud voice, My God, My God,

why have You forsaken me?" (HCSB) The sky grew dark and the curtain in the temple was torn in two symbolizing that because of the death of Jesus, you and I have direct access to the Father. Jesus is our High Priest. No longer do we need someone else to go before the Father on our behalf. Jesus will ever be interceding for us at the right hand of the God. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit," then he died. (v. 46) As the centurion witnessed what was happening, he began to glorify God saying, "This man really was righteous!" (v.47, HCSB) Jesus died to bring glory to the Father. That is our true motivation to be a witness for God. Jesus' obedience unto death was not to bring glory to himself but to bring glory to God. What better motivation do we need?

Dedmon is minister of education at First Church, Grenada.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Do You Take Your Burdens to the Lord?

Isaiah 37:10-12, 14-20, 33-37

By Lori Clendinning

Imagine it is 701BC and you are Hezekiah, the thirteenth king of Judah. At age twenty-five, you have succeeded your father, King Ahaz, to the throne. Under your father's foolhardy command, your country has shrunk in size and is a beaten-down pawn of the Assyrian Empire. You are besieged by foreign powers, your armies are depleted, and God has provided a relentless prophet named Isaiah to set you straight. An army is marching on your capitol city led by newly crowned Sennacherib, the mighty warrior king of Assyria.

The son of Sargon II, King Sennacherib had already captured forty-two Judean towns when he sent forth an alarming edict via the Rabshakeh, a chief Assyrian officer, that Jerusalem was about to be destroyed and

that there was nothing that God could do about it. The Rabshakeh's speech was intended to undermine the people's morale and to weaken Hezekiah's authority. The officer used the common everyday Hebrew dialect, rather than the official diplomatic Aramaic language, in order to appeal to the masses and undercut Hezekiah's influence.

This week's lesson in Isaiah 37 highlights King Hezekiah's response to the message of Sennacherib. Hezekiah wisely turned to the Lord in prayer when he received the threatening message. His determination to do the right thing challenges today's adults to take our burdens to the Lord in prayer whenever we are faced with insurmountable odds.

Sadly, many adults view prayer as a crutch for the weak if they see validity to it at all.



Clendinning

Some adults prefer to rely on their own resources instead of admitting their need for help in difficult times. The Lord, however, wants His people to respond with trust in Him, instead of panicking or relying on human ingenuity, as they confront life's demands.

Isaiah 37 takes place during the crisis of 701 BC when Sennacherib invaded Judah as part of Assyria's actions to reassert control over certain rebellious areas. The Assyrian army was preparing to take Jerusalem when the angel of the Lord struck down 185,000 in the Assyrian camp. God alone delivered Jerusalem from destruction when no one else could.

The king of Assyria painted a bleak and hopeless picture of Judah's ability to withstand the might of Assyria by implying that the God the people worshiped lacked power to withstand Assyrian might. Likewise, we may face bleak circumstances and see no way out. Our enemy will attempt to intimidate and

frighten us, but God alone can deliver us from destruction.

Hezekiah's prayer expressed complete dependence on the Lord. He recognized God's sovereignty and that God is alive, not a dead idol or the work of human hands. Hezekiah based his prayer on the Lord's character and identity, not on man's righteousness. The motive behind Hezekiah's prayer of faith was the desire to glorify God rather than to selfishly pursue his own agenda. Hezekiah expressed faith as he broadcast the letter from the king of Assyria before the Lord and sought divine deliverance. Likewise, when we are at the most hopeless point, we can remember who God is and in faith bring our burdens of concern to Him in prayer.

We know that God does not always deliver His people from physical crises with results that are easily seen here on earth. God is God, and we are not. He chooses His own way, and we do not coerce His steps with our plans. However, there are remarkable moments throughout history when a godly man or woman faces their bleakest

moment and God chooses to rescue them in ways that are easily seen by mere man. Sometimes, despite the dismal circumstance, the severely premature baby's life is saved, the kidnapped man is released, and the burn victim is miraculously healed.

Just as water will choose the most direct path downhill, God's divine nature requires that He receive glory from our imperfect, human circumstances. We may not always understand how He is working, but He will be glorified. Whatever His will, God's people may be assured they ultimately have the security of His presence in crisis situations.

The Lord answered Hezekiah's prayer by reassuring him through Isaiah that He would protect Jerusalem from Sennacherib's advancing army, a promise that He fulfilled in Isaiah 37:36-37. The Lord reassures and helps us when we bring our burdens to Him in faith, when we take it to the Lord in prayer.

Clendinning is a member of First Church, Brandon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

THE BAPTIST
Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing,

and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

STATE CHANGES

Belden Church, Belden, has called Jim Holcomb as pastor. Holcomb, his wife Lourie, and their daughter and son-in-law Adam and Darbi Archer came to Belden Feb. 5. He comes from Iuka Church, Iuka.

Old Hebron Church, New Hebron, has called Tommy Tanner as pastor. Tanner previously served in Charleston. He and his wife, Vivian, are natives of Smith County and have four children.



Bishop

Beacon Street Church, Philadelphia, has called Jerry Bishop as pastor. Bishop and his wife Charlotte come from Lauderdale Church in Lauderdale County.

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Pheba Church, Pheba: Homecoming, May 22; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon singing; Charles Dampere, speaker.

New Harmony Church, Philadelphia: Revival, Apr. 9 - 12; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Joey Savell, Huntsville, Ala., speaker; Karen Hardy Fisk, Brookhaven, music.

First Church, Houlika: Revival, Apr. 9 - 12; Sun., 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Chester Harrison, speaker; Melinda Kopp, music; David Blackwell, pastor.

Ramah Church, McCall Creek: Homecoming, Apr. 16; worship, 11 a.m.; followed by dinner on the ground; singing, 1:30 p.m.; Jimmy Burke, speaker; Marvin Curtist, music.

Cairo Church, Pontotoc Association: Revival, Apr. 8 - 12; 7 p.m. nightly; Sat., meet the team night, with fellowship meal, 6 p.m.; Jimmy Knight, speaker; Marilyn Gillespie, Pontotoc, music; Bill Dowdy, pastor.



1. Preschool Workers, First Church, Starkville

1. **First Church, Starkville,** recognized several preschool department workers for many years of volunteer service. Shown from left, are Bill Jeffries (22+ years), Marie Jeffries (22+ years), Paul Spikes (34 years), Clarence Watson (22+ years), Alice Watson (22+ years), Edna Buckner (40 years), Geneva Nelson (30+ years), Myrtle Anderson (in front, 24 years), Mary Box (20+ years), Marilyn Layton (20+ years), and Roscoe Anderson (14 years, but began teaching in his 80's).

2. **Drew Smith, youth minister of Harmony Church, Walnut,** was licensed into the ministry Jan. 16. Smith is a sophomore at Blue Mountain College. Shown is Smith and pastor Brian Tatum.

3. **Conehatta Church, Conehatta,** recognizes its perfect attendees. From left: Juddie Hedrick, nine years; Lane McDill, five years; Briam More, two years; David Bounds, one year; Amanda Horn, two years; Claire Morrow, one year.

4. **Grace United Church, Decatur,** observed its first deacon ordination. Shown are Joey Acord, Thomas Scarborough, and Ellis Acord. Hal Ethridge, pastor.

5. **Emmanuel Church, Union,** recently ordained J.C. Massengale as deacon. Shown, from left, are Jerry Russell, Lamar Mahaffey, Massengale, pastor Bill Hall, and Eddie Wolverton.

6. **Shiloh Church, Big Creek,** is discussing Crimes Against the Elderly during their regular Senior Citizen's Program, with Mike Campbell of the Bruce Police Department, Apr. 11, 10:30 a.m. This is a covered dish meal event.

7. **North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton,** is presenting the Easter drama God's Masterpiece Apr. 14 - 17, 7 p.m.

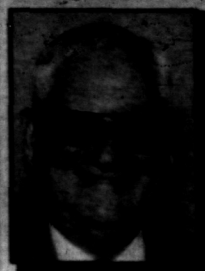
8. **First Church, Gluckstadt,** is hosting a celebration service 10 a.m. Apr. 16 as they move to their new building. Frank Pollard, guest speaker; music by Embrace. The church will host an open house Apr. 23, 2 - 5 p.m. for guests to see the new building, meet the staff, and enjoy refreshments. For more information, call (601) 209-6000. Author Comans, pastor.

9. **Cedar View Church, Olive Branch,** is hosting a community singing Apr. 15, 6 p.m., with the Geeslin Brothers, featured musicians. Call (662) 895-2661 for information.

10. **Faith Church (formerly State Boulevard) Church, Meridian,** will celebrate the completion of their new facility with a dedication service Apr. 9. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by light lunch. Wayne Edwards, speaker.

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OBITUARIES



Ainsworth

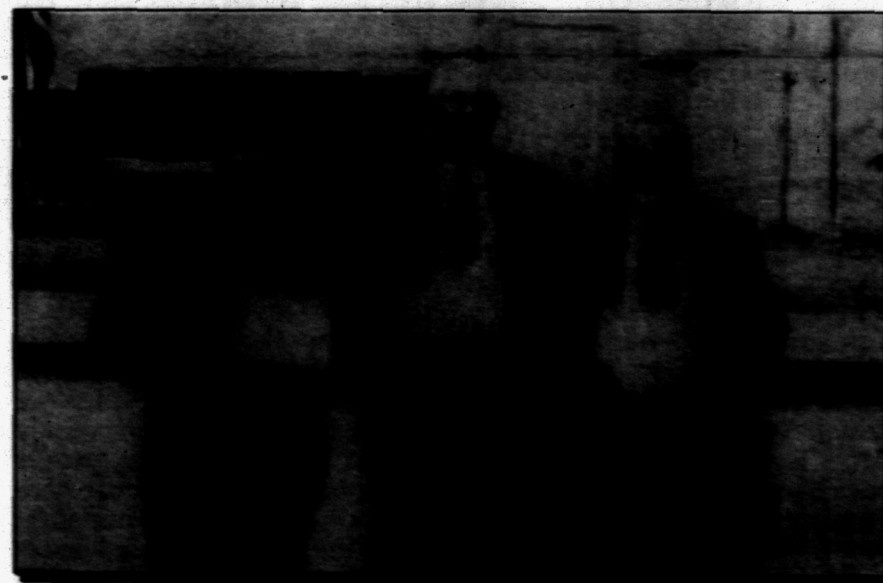
Riley E. Ainsworth died Mar. 8 at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, with services at First Church, Lexington and burial at Harlands Creek Cemetery, Lexington. Ainsworth was born Feb. 7, 1928, and held degrees from Zama High School, East Central Community College, Delta State University, and MSU. He pastored in Amite, Copiah, Carroll, Holmes, Calhoun, Attala, and Yazoo Counties. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Helen "Wink" Ainsworth, son Danny Ainsworth (Dianna) of Madison, daughters, Debbie Anding (Grafton) of Vicksburg, and Cherie Ricks (Tommy) of Crystal Springs, brother, Tommie Ainsworth of Greenwood, and sisters, Sue Provenza of Greenville, Rebecca Stovall of Yazoo City, and Syble Adams of Tupelo, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



2. Smith and Tatum, Harmony Church, Walnut



3. Perfect Attendance, Conehatta Church, Conehatta



4. Deacon Ordination, Grace United Church, Decatur



5. Deacon Ordination, Emmanuel Church, Union